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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, give our Senators Your blessing as they seek to serve this Nation and all people.

Lord, we lift our hearts and thoughts to You today, for You alone reign over creation and sustain us in good and bad times. Give us a sense of fairness in all we do; that Your message of peace and justice will be known in the lives of all citizens. Give us strength to do what we can do and to be what we can be as we remember that without You, we can do nothing.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLI-

BRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum, Madam President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1619. As a reminder to all Senators, cloture was filed on the bill last night. As a result, the filing deadline for first-degree amendments is 1 p.m. today. Unless an agreement is reached, the vote on cloture will occur tomorrow morning. The Republican leader and I have had a number of discussions, and we will decide if there will be amendments on the China trade legislation. It is my understanding that both Democrats and Republicans will offer some amendments, and certainly we can do that even though there is a cloture motion that has been filed.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Mr. REID. Madam President, Franklin Roosevelt said that no man can truly be free without economic security. With 14 million people unemployed—out of work—in America, there are far too many people living in the richest Nation in the world, yet unable to enjoy the full freedom and independence for which America stands. So this Congress has no greater challenge—none—and no more important responsibility than to enact the policies that help American businesses flourish and grow, put American citizens to work, and get our struggling economy back on track to prosperity. So I was disappointed yesterday when my Republican friends chose to play political games with not one but two pieces of important job-creating legislation.

The bill before the Senate will even the odds for American workers and manufacturers in the global marketplace by stopping unfair currency manipulation by the Chinese Government. It would support 1.6 million American jobs, and it has the support of Democrats, Republicans, labor leaders, and business groups. We should pass it quickly so we can move on to other important work facing the Senate this month. But yesterday Republicans threatened to derail this legislation, even though they overwhelmingly support it, and allow China to continue to tilt the playing field.

Also up for debate this work period, which ends in 2 weeks, is commonsense jobs legislation proposed by the President of the United States. President Obama's plan would invest in roads, bridges, dams, and other construction efforts to create jobs. It would put construction crews back to work building and renovating schools. It would extend unemployment insurance for Americans who are still struggling to find work. In that regard, Mark Zandi, who certainly is no Democratic spokesperson—in fact, he was the economic adviser for JOHN MCCAIN's Presidential

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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